11. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) (a) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC), New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1686/15/09]

(ii) (a) Fifty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1687/15/09]

Written Answer to Starred and Unstarred Questions set for the 21st December, 2009*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Amendment in MMDR Act

*441. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act for speedy and time bound development of mineral resources available in the States;

(b) whether Government proposes to empower the State Governments by providing more power by deleting parts 'A' and 'C' of Schedule-I of the Act; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) A new draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) has been circulated to all the stakeholders including State Governments, Industry and concerned Ministries/Departments in July 2009 for comments, and uploaded on Website of Ministry.

---

*The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the 21st December, 2009 was adjourned on account of the passing away of Shri Suryakantabhai Acharya, a sitting member. Answers to Questions put down in the list for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, the 22nd December, 2009.

After four meetings with the various stakeholders held between 11th August 2009 and 3rd September 2009, a modified draft Act was again circulated to stakeholders on 18th September 2009, and uploaded on Website of Ministry.

Subsequently, a workshop was held on the 9th and 10th October 2009 with all the stakeholders, and a revised draft Act has again been circulated for consultation and uploaded on the Website of the Ministry on 17th November, 2009. The various versions of the draft Act can be seen on the Ministry website www.mines.nic.in

After the consultation process is over, Bill will be introduced in Parliament after obtaining Cabinet approval. It is therefore not possible to indicate the nature of the provisions till the proposal is finalized with Cabinet approval.

Film and video piracy

*442. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate stringent law to check film and video piracy in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the bottlenecks found in the existing law;

(c) whether Government is also aware that several State Governments have completely failed to implement the law to check film and video piracy;

(d) if so, whether the film industry has been affected adversely as a result thereof; and

(e) if so, by when the new law to check film and video piracy is likely to be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government is aware of the problems relating to infringement of copyright resulting in piracy, which arises due to a host of factors, such as, non-availability of filmed entertainment at an affordable price, lack of normal channels of distribution to a large chunk of population, relatively high rates of entertainment tax, relatively easy availability of cheap pirated films as well as lack of awareness among the public. Piracy and infringement of copyright adversely affect the owners of copyright.

Measures have been taken by the Union Government, and the State Governments towards reduction in the rates of custom duty, service tax and entertainment tax, amendments in the Copyright Act, improving the enforcement machinery and enhancing public awareness for checking film and video piracy.

Power Outages

*443. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state: